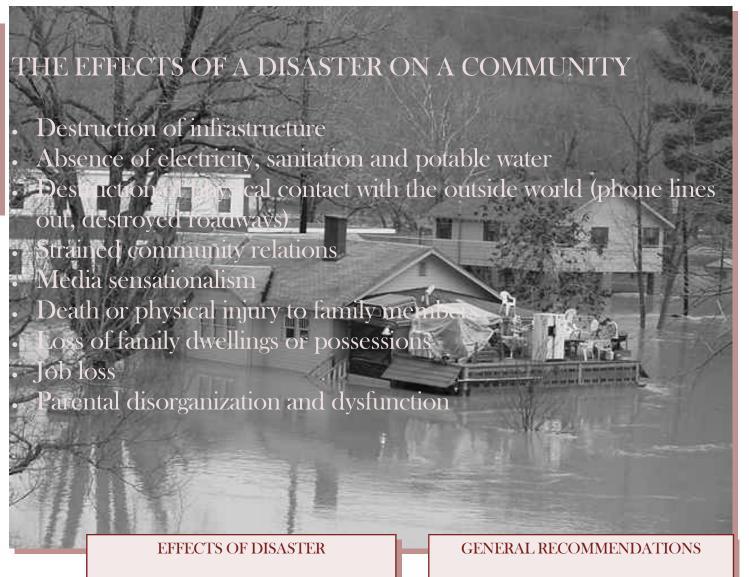
NATURAL VS. HUMAN CAUSED DISASTERS

A disaster is usually defined as an event that involves destruction of property, includes injury and/or loss of life, affects a large population and is shared by many families.

Human-caused disasters include malfunctioning technology, airplane crashes, some forest fires, mass transportation accidents and dissemination of environmental toxins. Responsible parties to these issues can be individual people, businesses or the government.

	Natural	Human- Caused
Causes	Forces of nature	Human error, malfunction- ing technology
Examples	Earth- quakes, hurricanes, floods	Airplane crashes, major chemical leaks, nuclear reac- tor accidents
Blame	No one	Person, gov- emment, business
Scope	Various locations	Locations may be inaccessi- ble to rescu- ers, unfamiliar to survivors, little advance warn- ing
Post disaster distress	High	Higher, often felt by family members not involved in actual disaster



- Disruption of normal patterns
- Somatic symptoms
- Aggressive/Defiant Behavior
- Repetitious Behavior
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Guilt
- Acute Stress Reactions

- Listening and emphasizing strengths
- Screening Techniques
- Determining Need and Type of Intervention
- Know limitations

Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board

Supporting Communities in Crisis Management: Preparedness, Response and Ongoing Recovery

ISSUES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

One important task for the primary care physician is to help the community implement a disaster preparedness program prior to the disaster.

SCHOOLS

After a disaster, the schools are a natural site for monitoring behavior of children and adolescents, even early in the aftermath, when schools are often used as temporary shelters for families.

MEDIA

Mass media can be effective in informing the public about the status of a disaster, e.g., where and how to get emergency services.

COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Outreach to various community organizations and relief groups, churches and synagogues about the health and psychosocial effects of a disaster on children and adolescents will assist in long term recovery.



612-B Shelby Street
Frankfort,
KY 40601-3460
http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/military/kccrb
Toll Free 24 Hour Line:
(888) 522-7228

An office of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs

Information in this brochure was taken from a Center for Mental Health Services publication entitled "Psychosocial Issues for Children and Families in Disasters: A Guide

for the Primary Care Physician"

HELPING THE COMMUNITY HEAL

Health Care & Human Services Role in Recovery



